

## REMARKS

### I. Introduction.

Claims 1-15 are pending and stand rejected. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

### II. The 35 U.S.C. Section 112 Rejection.

Claim 10 has been amended as suggested to overcome the Section 112 rejection.

### III. The 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejection.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,562,142, Barger, et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,320,752 issued to Clack, et al. or U.S. Patent 6,571,960 issued to Williamson, et al.

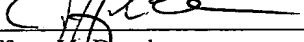
The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Applicants are transmitting a Declaration of Richard L. Horstman herewith which establishes that the invention described in Claims 1 and 15 was reduced to practice before the May 13, 2003 issue date of the Barger, et al. patent (and also before the issue date of the Williamson, et al. patent). The Section 103(a) rejection based upon a combination of references that includes these patents should, therefore, be withdrawn.

### IV. Summary.

All of the rejections have been addressed. In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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